

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 26660 230857Z

15

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-05 COME-00 OMB-01 PM-04

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 TRSE-00 /037 W

----- 003186

R 230825Z EEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5950

INFO COMUSMACTHAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 26660

PASS DEFENSE CNO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, EIND, MMOL, MILI

SUBJECT: PATROL BOATS FOR ROYAL THAI NAVY

1. MARTIN W. KANE, VP TACOMA BOAT CO., REQUESTED ASSISTANCE FROM EMBASSY SOME WEEKS AGO WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT ROYAL THAI NAVY WAS

ABOUT TO CONCLUDE CONTRACT WITH COMPETING ITALIAN FIRM CANTIERE NAVAL DE BREDA FOR THREE MISSILE-ARMED PATROL BOATS. CONTRACT IS WORTH ABOUT \$56.3 MILLION. KANE CONTENTED ITALIANS COULD NOT DELIVER WITHIN CONTRACTED PRICE, FIAT (GENERAL ELECTRIC) HAD TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED DEVELOPMENT OF L.M. 500 ENGINE ITALIANS PLAN TO USE IN BOAT AND KICKBACKS TO RTN OFFICERS WERE PROBABLY INVOLVED.

2. AMBASSADOR WROTE LETTER TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRAMARN HIGHLIGHTING MERITS OF AMERICAN PROPOSAL AND SUBSEQUENTLY DISCUSSED MATTER WITH BOTH FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI WHO IS BROTHER-IN-LAW OF PRAMARN, AND RET. GENERAL KRIT SIWARA, FORTUITOUSLY, KOREAN AMBASSADOR WAS PRESENT DURING CONVERSATION WITH GEN. KRIT AND SPOKE ENTHUSIASTICALLY OF TACOMA BOAT'S PRODUCT.

3. AMBASSADOR IS NOW SENDING AMPLIFYING LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI STRESSING VIRTURE OF U.S. PATROL BOAT, WITH COPIES TO ADMIRAL SA-NGAD CHALARYOO, SUPREME COMMANDER, RTARF
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 26660 230857Z

AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, ROYAL THAI NAVY.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES STRONG SUPPORT FOR TACOMA BOAT CO. EFFORT TO SECURE THIS CONTRACT IS IN THE INTEREST NOT ONLY OF THE US. COMPANY, BUT IS ALSO IN THE INTEREST OF THE THAI NAVY. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND U.S. NAVY MATERIEL COMMAND HAVE BEEN KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF THIS AFFAIR THROUGH THE NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP OF MACTHAI.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONTRACTS, NAVAL SHIPS, PROPOSALS (BID)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO26660
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750445-0227
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751288/aaaagvdy.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971016
Subject: PATROL BOATS FOR ROYAL THAI NAVY
TAGS: EIND, EWWT, MILI, MMOL, TACOMA BOAT COMPANY, (KANE, MARTIN W)
To: STATE INFO COMUSMACTHAI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006